

Moving? Tips for Haz Waste



Moving this summer? Helping an older relative move? There are some things you can't—or don't want to—take with you.

Cleaning products, oil-based paint, antifreeze, car batteries, fluorescent bulbs and other unused and unwanted household hazardous waste are harmful and are not allowed in garbage. Call **(206) 296-4692** or visit **www.hazwastehelp.org** to find a no-fee disposal facility near you.

Used motor oil: Call **(206) 296-4692** or visit **www.hazwastehelp.org** to find where to dispose or recycle.

Unwanted medicines: Find drop-off locations for safe disposal at **www.takebackyourmeds.org**

Leftover latex paint: Dry it up with kitty litter and then place it in your garbage with the lid off.

Electronic or bulky items: Call **(206) 684-3000** for a \$30 pickup of that old couch or laptop, or visit **www.seattle.gov/util/lookitup** for free drop-off locations.

Elderly or disabled persons may qualify for home pick-up of hazardous products.

Get general help or advice for seniors from the Senior Information and Assistance Line at **(206) 448-3110** or **www.seniorservices.org**.

Rinse & Recycle Cups and Cartons

What do disposable coffee cups and milk cartons have in common? Both are recyclable.

Both are made of basically the same thing: strong paper with a very thin coating of plastic film. The plastic separates from the paper fibers when the cartons and cups are reprocessed for manufacture into recycled-content paper.

Give them a quick rinse and toss them in your recycling cart.

The same kind of paper is used to make take-out food cartons, so you can recycle them, too.

Only clean take-out cartons can be recycled. Rinse them out so there's no food residue left. Otherwise, put dirty ones in the garbage. Brown paper/cardboard take-out food boxes should also be rinsed and recycled.

Never put coated-paper items in your food and yard waste cart. The plastic film prevents them from breaking down into compost.



\$1.00 Off Glad® Compostable Bags

Great for storing kitchen scraps, these bags make kitchen composting cleaner and easier!

- ✓ OdorShield® Technology helps neutralize food odors
- ✓ Keeps kitchen containers and curbside carts clean
- ✓ Certified Compostable by the Industry Standards Authority, BPI. Glad®



The information in this newsletter can be made available on request to accommodate people with disabilities and those who need language translation assistance. Call Seattle Public Utilities at **(206) 684-3000**. TDD telephone number is **(206) 233-7241**. Please recycle this newsletter or pass it on to a friend. Printed on recycled paper made out of 100% post-consumer waste.

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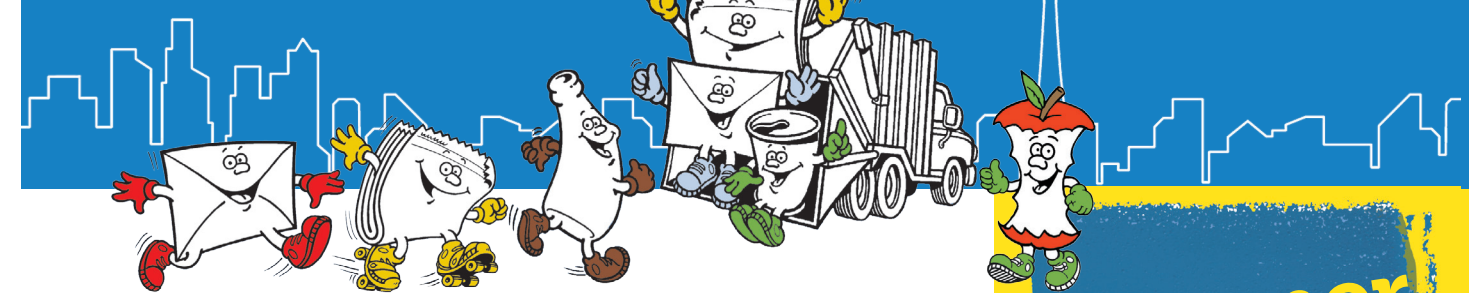
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Tips and Programs for Seattle Residents

Summer 2013

Seattle
Public
Utilities

CurbWaste & Conserve



Don't Drip & Drive



Fix That Leak!

Our FREE Auto Leaks Class is now offered at four locations around the Sound: South Seattle Community College, West Seattle High School's Automotive Center, Shoreline Community College, and Renton Technical College.

This class lets you know if you have a leak and prepares you to have a conversation with your mechanic about any repairs. It's a \$125 value!

REGISTER TODAY: www.fixcarleaks.org

Win Mariners Tickets

Seattle Mariners fans hit a home run for the environment last year by diverting more than 2 million pounds of waste away from local landfills through recycling and composting at Safeco Field.



Way to go! Fans attending the Mariners' Sustainable Saturdays games on June 22, July 13, July 27, August 24 and September 28 can take the BASF Trivia Challenge. Text the correct environmental answer and you could win a Samsung Galaxy Tab 2.0 with a year of unlimited data.

Subscribers to our free Curbwaste & Conserve e-newsletter will be entered to win a pair of tickets to each Sustainable Saturday game!

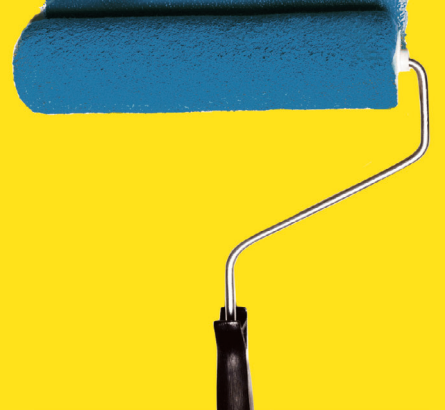
SIGN UP AT: www.seattle.gov/lists/curbwaste.htm

Summer Paint Out

Paint out graffiti this July and August. Join Summer Paint Out. Whether you are a group or an individual, you can tackle graffiti in your neighborhood. The City of Seattle supports volunteers with FREE paint (white-brown-gray), rollers, brushes, scrapers, and gloves.

SIGN UP TODAY!

www.seattle.gov/util/SummerPaintOut, or
(206) 684-7790, or email
daniel.sims@seattle.gov.



Free and Discounted Toilets

Toilets are a household’s biggest water user — old, leaky models can impact your utility bill. Consider replacing it with our help!

\$30–\$75 Rebates — Free Toilets

Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) is providing free toilets for income-qualified homeowners — a family of four making less than \$4,819 a month may qualify. Properties must also be located within SPU’s service area and must have existing toilets installed before 1994. Installation and recycling of your old toilet are also provided free of charge. For more information, call **(206) 448-5751** or go to **www.seattle.gov/util/FreeToilets**.

For a limited time, customers who replace their old, water-guzzling toilets (made before 1994) with new WaterSense-labeled models are eligible for a \$30 rebate. Or, choose one of the newer WaterSense Premium models and get a \$75 rebate! Learn more at **www.savingwater.org** or by calling **(206) 684-SAVE (7283)**.



Summer Savvy in the Yard

Natural Lawn Care = Better Results, Less Hassle!

- ✓ Mulch mow (grasscycle); leave the clippings to return nitrogen to the soil;
- ✓ Mow to two inches high (one inch for bentgrass lawns) once per week;
- ✓ Fertilize in fall instead of summer, for healthier growth and less work mowing. Applying fertilizer in warmer weather stresses lawn;
- ✓ Water deeply but less often, only once or twice a week, until the root zone is moistened. Dormant (brown) lawns need deep watering once a month or so to keep the roots alive.

Wise Watering Tips for Plants

- ✓ Water deeply and less often to grow healthy roots;
- ✓ Probe into the soil to see if the root zone needs water;
- ✓ Many garden plants can thrive with just a deep weekly watering;
- ✓ Shallow-rooted plants, such as annuals and rhododendrons, may need water every few days;
- ✓ Water when it is cooler in the day and keep your soil mulched to reduce evaporation.

For free gardening information from the experts, contact the Garden Hotline: **(206) 633-0224** or **help@gardenhotline.org**.

Planning for the Future

Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) is in the process of developing a Strategic Business Plan that will guide our investments, service levels and water, sewer, drainage and solid waste rates and fees through the year 2020. Input from our customers is a critical part in developing the department’s priorities.

Stay Tuned

In the coming months, SPU will be organizing public meetings and developing several other ways businesses and residents can give their opinions on how SPU can make Seattle an even better place to live.



Improving Seattle’s Water Quality

Many Seattle neighborhoods have a sewer system that mixes sewage and stormwater into a single drainage pipe. When it rains, stormwater can overwhelm the system, causing raw

sewage overflows into local creeks, rivers, lakes and Puget Sound. Last year, 154 million gallons of sewage overflowed from Seattle’s system.

SPU is working to improve Seattle’s water quality. SPU is preparing a plan, to be finalized by 2015, that will protect Seattle’s waterways from sewage overflows and polluted stormwater runoff.

Visit **www.seattle.gov/cso** and click “Long-term Control Plan” to read the Community Guide to the plan and provide your comments.



What are the recycling rules for bags?

There’s a lot of baggage when it comes to reusing, recycling and composting, so it “bags” the question, where should bags be disposed? Here are some tips:

Recycling

DO	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Do recycle clean grocery, dry cleaning, and newspaper bags.✓ Do stuff them into one bag to prevent them from flying away and causing litter or clogging the recycling machinery.✓ Do put long-cut shredded paper in a clear bag and the paper will be recycled. Tiny confetti-like paper goes in your food and yard cart.✓ Do put out extra recycling next to your cart in a paper bag or cardboard box if your cart is full.
DON’T	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Don’t toss a bag full of random recyclable items into the recycling cart. The workers at the recycling facility can’t see what’s inside the bag to easily sort them. Empty the bag into the recycling cart instead.

Garbage

DO	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Do put frozen food, produce, bread, and Ziploc-type bags in the garbage. Even clean, they’re assumed to have bits of food and moisture in them that ruins their recyclability. Feel guilty about throwing them away? Donate bags to a local dog park or reuse them.✓ Do use a plastic bag to line your garbage can. It helps keep odors in, pests out, and the neighborhood clean of litter.✓ Do double-bag your pet’s doo-doo.
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Food & Yard

DO	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Do use uncoated paper bags and compostable kitchen scrap bags to store and carry food scraps to your cart. For a full list of approved bags and local stores where you can find them, visit www.seattle.gov/util and search “compostable bags.”
DON’T	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Don’t put plastic bags in your food and yard waste cart. It can ruin the compost.✓ Don’t put biodegradable bags in your food and yard cart. Biodegradable does not necessarily mean compostable.✓ Don’t put compostable pet waste bags in your food and yard cart. Don’t even use compostable pet waste bags, as pet waste belongs in the garbage and compostable bags only turn into compost at compost facilities.



At the Store

Plastic carryout bags are banned in Seattle. Large paper bags are available at stores for a nickel. You can still get plastic produce bags, smaller paper bags or thick, reusable plastic bags at many retailers.

DO	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Please help reduce waste and bring reusable bags with you next time you shop.
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Get more information: Visit **www.seattle.gov/util/lookup**, follow Ask Evelyn on Facebook **www.facebook.com/EvelyntheEnvelope** or write to Ask Evelyn, PO BOX 34018 Seattle, WA 98124-4018.